

Summary of Engineers Canada's 2019 Winter Meetings

Materials, reports, and presentations can be found at:

<https://engineerscanada.ca/about/governance/board-meetings/2019-02-27/documents>

GSPC and the Governance 2.0 Consultations

On Thursday, February 28, the Governance, Strategic Planning, and Consultation (GSPC) Project held two consultation sessions to complete consultations with regulators on Governance 2.0. These sessions sought feedback on the role of CEO Group as an advisor to the Board, the role of the regulator and the presidents in board governance, the mandate of directors, and ensuring excellence through the sustainability and accountability of the governance model.

Implementing these changes represent the final deliverable for the governance portion of the GSPC Project. With the feedback of regulators, the Governance Committee will finalize recommendations related to the governance model for the Engineers Canada Board and propose specific changes to policies and bylaws. These changes would be considered at the May Board Meeting and the Annual Meeting of Members.

CEO Group

Ann English, chair of the CEO Group, presented a summary of their recent meeting. It was shared that Geoff Emberley, CEO of PEGNL, will be resigning at the end of June. In addition, several regulators will be celebrating their 100th anniversaries in 2020. Engineers & Geoscientists BC will be the first to celebrate with their 100th AGM in October, 2019. Engineers Canada will be sharing more information on the various centennial celebrations on engineerscanada.ca. The CEO Group is supportive of the individual Board director assessments being shared with their respective association. They suggested that a member from the CEO Group be included as a non-voting advisor to the Board's Human Resources Committee. For the next year, Jim Landrigan was selected as Chair of the CEO Group, and Kim King was selected as Vice-Chair.

Presidents Group

Karen Costello, chair of the Presidents Group, presented a summary of the presidents' meeting. They focused on the role of the President's Group and how it could be more effective, considering governance discussions and the need to maximize their effectiveness in light of high turnover and a short ramp for onboarding. They expressed a desire for some sort of onboarding package for the presidents. Follow up discussions are still needed with regulators regarding perceived conflicts of interest for presidents who sit as board members. The group received an update from Engineers and Geoscientists BC on the Professional Governance Act, and from Engineers Canada on Strategic Priority 3: Recruitment, retention, and the professional development of women in the engineering profession. The next meeting will be chaired by Serge Dupuis from Engineers and Geoscientists New Brunswick.

Approval of CEQB documents

The Board approved the Regulator Guideline on Continuing Professional Development and the Regulator Guideline on Limited Licenses. Both will only be available to regulators.

National Position Statements

The Board approved the national position statement on the Regulation of Coastal, Ocean, and Related Subsurface Engineering. The document will be posted on the public side of Engineers Canada's website.

Publication of Board committee minutes

The Board carried a motion to publish all Board committee minutes on the public side of Engineers Canada's website.

PEO affinity funds

The Board approved PEO's request to hold sponsorship monies derived from the home and auto insurance program in abeyance until April 30, 2019. This grants PEO additional time to resolve a dispute raised by the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE) and the Consulting Engineers of Ontario (CEO) to the Ontario Attorney General regarding PEO's governance structure and its perceived non-regulatory activities. The Attorney General had encouraged the three parties to resolve the issue before PEO took any further action.

Funding Task Force report

The Funding Task Force presented a draft report which included two recommendations for consideration. Recommendation 1 suggests the status quo, with no changes to affinity revenue distribution or member assessments. Recommendation 2 proposes an increase in member assessments over time, and no changes to how affinity revenue from the TD program is split between Engineers Canada and the regulators. However, it introduces a cap for unrestricted reserves, and funds in excess would be redistributed back to the regulators.

The Funding Tasks Force requested that directors take these recommendations back to their councils for input. Directors are to inform the task force of the date by which they could provide their regulator's response. With this feedback, the task force will prepare a final recommendation for Board consideration at the May 24, 2019 meeting.

Objectives of Chief Executive Officer

In an in camera session, the Board discussed and approved objectives of the CEO.

Board Policy Manual

The Board approved several policies, with the policy on Board, committee, and other volunteer expenses sent to the Governance Committee for further refinement.

In addition, the Governance Committee is aiming for finalization of proposed terms of reference for the CEAB and CEQB at the Board's April teleconference meeting. This would allow for incoming CEAB and CEQB members to be clear on the expectations under which they will be volunteering.

Electricity Human Resource Canada (EHRC) Leadership Accord for Gender Diversity

The Board approved the endorsement of the Electricity Human Resource Canada (EHRC) Leadership Accord for Gender Diversity. The accord was established to be a public commitment by Canadian employers, educators, unions, and governments to promote the values of diversity and inclusion within their organizations. EHRC's initial accord focused on ensuring the electricity industry became truly reflective of society; they have now expanded their mandate to stakeholders outside the electricity sector. EHRC asked if Engineers Canada would like to endorse the Accord. Such an endorsement sends a strong message on Engineers Canada's commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI), our commitment to SP3 and OP9, and the importance of working together with other organizations to reach our collective goals.

Annette Bergeron and Gerard McDonald will participate in a signing ceremony in late March.

Upcoming meetings

- April 16, 2019 – Board teleconference meeting
- May 23 to 25, 2019 – Spring Meetings, including Annual Meeting of Members (Quebec City, QC)
- June 27 to 28, 2019 – Board Strategic Retreat (Whitehorse, YT)
- October 2 to 4, 2019 – Fall Meetings (Ottawa, ON)
- December 9, 2019 – Late Fall Meeting (Ottawa, ON)